

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELGRA 02207 191129 Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2207

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, LE, IS

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV REPLY TO SECRETARY'S LETTERS ON LEBANON

SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND FOREIGN POLICY REPORTS

FOLLOWING IS FONOFF TRANSLATION OF LETTER FROM MINIC TO SECRETARY WHICH GRANFIL HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED DELIVER SOONEST IN WASHINGTON, COPY OF WHICH HANDED ME FRIDAY EVENING BY ACTING FOMIN TOPALVSKI:

QUOTE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR PERSONAL LETTER AND THE COPY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT YOU SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS ON UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY IN 1972, WHICH YOU KINDLY SENT ME THROUGH THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA, MR. TOON. PARA. I SHOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE AT THE OUTSET THAT WE HAVE CAREFULLY BEEN STUDYING THIS SIGNIFICANT AND COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT AND, IN PARTICULAR, THOSE PARTS RELATING TO ISSUES AND QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO MY COUNTRY. WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, WE ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE POSITIONS AND DEFINITIONS SET OUT BY YOU IN CONNECTION WITH YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN RELATIONS. I CAN ALREADY STATE WITH SATISFACTION THAT YOUR APPRAISALS OF OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS ARE RATHER CLOSE - AND WITH REGARD

TO SOME ELEMENTS ALMOST IDENTICAL - TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN SOME OF OUR ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS. THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS INDICATED ITS LASTING INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STABLE AND EQUITABLE YUGOSLAV- AMERICAN RELATIONS AND POINTED OUT THAT OUR PRACTICAL ENGAGEMENT ALONG THESE

LINE OCCUPIES A SIGNIFICANT PLACE IN YUGOSLAV FOREIGN POLICY. IN THIS RESPECT, OUR POINTS OF DEPARTURE ARE THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BELGRA 02207 191129 Z

IN THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS ADOPTED DURING THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MR. RICHARD NIXON, TO YUGOSLAVIA AND THE RETURN VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA, JOSIP BROZ TITO, TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. PARA. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE THAT THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS READY TO CONDUCT AN OPEN AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ON ALL INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, ON THE BASIS OF FULL RESPECT FOR THE EQUAL STATUS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED AND MUTUAL FREEDOM IN DECISION- MAKING. I CAN NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE EXISTING PRACTICE IN THIS FIELD HAS YIELDED POSITIVE RESULTS. IN SAYING THIS WE HAVE IN MIND THE OPEN EXCHANGES OF VIEWS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AND ABOVE ALL THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN PRESIDENT TITO AND PRESIDENT NIXON ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHERE THE SITUATION UNFORTUNATELY IS DETERIORATING DAILY, CAUSING MY COUNTRY, TOO, CONSTANT CONCERN. IN ITS ENDEAVOUR TO ENSURE THE BROADEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, YUGOSLAVIA IS GUIDED BY THE WISH THAT OUTCOMES MEETING WITH THE WIDEST POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE, YET AT THE SAME TIME REPRESENTING JUST SOLUTIONS TO UNSETTLED INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS BE FOUND. IT WAS PRECISELY THROUGH THE PRISM OF THESE POSITIONS THAT WE GAVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO YOUR MESSAGE OF 20 APRIL OF THIS YEAR, IN WHICH YOU, MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, EXPRESSED YOUR VIEWS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RESOLUTION WHICH WAS TO BE ADOPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMPLAINT LODGED BY LEBANON ON 12 APRIL OF THIS YEAR, CONCERNING THE ACT OF AGGRESSION COMMITTED BY ISRAELI ARMED FORCES. PARA. FULLY RESPECTING THE FRANKNESS OF YOUR MESSAGE, I TAKE THE LIBERTY TO NOTE, MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF FRANKNESS, THAT SOME PARTS OF THE MESSAGE ARE ACCENTED IN A MANNER WHICH MAY LEAVE THE IMPRESSION AS IF IT HAD BEEN WISHED TO INFLUENCE THE POSITION OF OUR DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OR THE VOTING OR OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DURING THE DEBATE ON THIS SPECIFIC QUESTION. I SHOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THIS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN YOUR INTENTION, IN VIEW OF THE CHARACTER OF YUGOSLAV- AMERICAN RELATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN BASED FOR ANUMBER OF YEARS ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND EQUALITY. PARA. ON THE BASIS OF ITS OWN APPRAISAL OF THE SITUATION MY GOVERNMENT HAS, TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES - MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SUPPORTED THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE LEBANESE COMPLAINT, ALTHOUGH I MUST

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 02207 191129 Z

EMPHASIZE THAT THE CONTENTS OF THAT RESOLUTION WERE NOT APPROPRIATE TO THE NEEDS OF THE MOMENT AND, EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, DO NOT PROVIDE GUARANTEES THAT SUCH ATTACKS BY ISRAEL WILL NOT BE REPEATED. SIMILARLY, MY GOVERNMENT UPHELD THE DECISION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, ADOPTED AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT, TO PROCEED SOON TO A COMPREHENSIVE

CONSIDERATION

OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS WITH A VIEW TO SOLVING IT. PARA. I
SHOULD BE VERY PLEASED, MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, TO CONTINUE EX-
CHANGING VIEWS ON QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. I HOPE THAT THE
CONSULTATION BETWEEN OUR TWO MINISTRIES - WHICH SHOULD TAKE
PLACE SOON, WILL BE VERY USEFUL. PARA. I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO YOU, MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, THE
ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST ESTEEM. END QUOTE.
TOON

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